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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
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GREEK TABLE OLIVE PRODUCTION FOR 1955

The 1955 table olive production in Greece is estimated at 40,000 short tons, about the same as in 1954; the 1954 pack was estimated at 40,500 tons. Adverse weather and damage by an insect pest reduced earlier expectations. Weather conditions this season were favorable for a late attack by the most destructive pest affecting Greek table olives--the olive fruit fly (Dacus oleae). As a result both the quantity and quality of the crop were affected. The export price of higher grade olives sold to the United States has been reported as $350 per metric ton (2,205 pounds).

1955 ITALIAN DRIED FIG PRODUCTION

Italian dried fig production in 1955 is estimated at 64,500 short tons, an 11-percent increase in comparison with the 58,000 tons estimated for 1954. Weather throughout the important growing regions, such as Campania and Apulia, was generally good. Sicily had a better than average crop, but quality was not so high as had been expected.

Only a small proportion of Italy's dried figs are exported. Exports in the 1954-55 season are believed to have totalled 6,800 tons, nearly all to other European countries. Imports by the United States of Italian dried figs amounted to 400 tons in 1954-55 and 425 tons in 1953-54. About half of these figs were in specially prepared or preserved form.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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CORRECTION: In the article, "Polish Pork Industry Recovers Prewar Markets," in the October 31, 1955, issue of Foreign Crops and Markets (p. 483), the first sentence should read: According to "The Pig Meat Situation," of the Commonwealth of Australia, ...

GREEK CURRANT, RAISIN, AND DRIED FIG CROPS INDICATED SMALLER

Adverse weather conditions in Greece have affected the 1955 production of dried fruits. Early summer winds cut production and late summer rains adversely affected quality.

Currants.--The 1955 crop is estimated at 63,000 short tons, well below last year's crop of 77,000 tons and the 5-year average (1948-52) of 88,000 tons. Earlier indications pointed to a crop as large as last year's; but almost constant rains during the drying period seriously damaged the crop. Early transactions have been made at 14.0 to 16.5 cents a pound, varying with grade and market. The quotations are substantially above 1954-55-season prices.

Raisins (Sultanas).--A crop smaller than last year's, but larger than average, is indicated. Production for 1955 is estimated at 44,000 short tons compared with 46,000 tons in 1954 and the 5-year average of 32,500 tons. Hot summer winds in Heraklion, Crete, and then the late rains reduced the exceptionally large crop in prospect earlier. Export prices, at 10.7 to 11.3 cents a pound for the No. 4 grade, are about 10 percent higher than those of a year ago.

Dried Figs.--The 1955 crop is currently estimated at 28,000 short tons, compared with 30,000 tons in 1954, and the 1948-52 average of 24,600 tons. Earlier expectations were for a crop fully as large as last year's. However, it is still too early to consider the current estimate as reliable. The percentage of lower grade figs will be much larger than normal. It is estimated at 50 percent as compared with 30 percent for the 1954 crop. Recent prices paid by United States importers have fluctuated between 10.5 and 11.5 cents a pound. These prices are about 10 percent below those of a year ago.

CANADA TO EXPORT TOP-GRADE APPLES TO BRITAIN

In export of apples to the United Kingdom, the Canadian Department of Agriculture will limit apple exports of all varieties except Golden Russet to Canada Extra Fancy and Canada Fancy. Golden Russet which is produced mostly in Nova Scotia, may be shipped at a minimum Canada "C" grade. The Canadians are of the opinion that shipment of low-grade apples to the highly competitive United Kingdom market would endanger future sales.

FREIGHT RATES INCREASED FOR NEW ZEALAND APPLES AND PEARS

The Apple and Pear Board of New Zealand has agreed to a 5-percent increase in freight rates effective November 1, 1955.

CANADIAN BURLEY PRODUCTION UP FROM 1954 LEVEL

Canada's 1955 crop of Burley tobacco is expected to reach 6 million pounds, an increase of about one-third as compared with the 1954 crop. Acreage for harvest was placed at more than 4,000 acres, while only 3,100 acres were harvested last year. The increase came as a result of efforts on the part of the Ontario Burley Marketing Association to increase acreage and production.

Trade sources report that in recent years there has been a trend in Canada toward the use of more light-colored thin-bodied Burley leaf in cigarette blends and mild pipe mixtures. Tests at the Experimental Farm at Harrow, Ontario, have shown that Burley 1, a variety developed in the United States, is the best variety available for producing high yields of bright, light-bodied cigarette leaf. This variety is now recommended and was used for a substantial part of the 1955 Burley acreage.

Canada's Burley leaf exports in the past have been heavy-bodied "red Burley" leaf grades shipped mostly to the United Kingdom. Experiments to develop improved disease-resistant varieties of this type have resulted in a new selection named Improved Briar, which will probably replace the black, root-rot susceptible variety, now in use. Canada is making a great effort to expand exports of light cigarette-type Burley.

INDIA'S TOBACCO CROP DOWN FROM 1954

The latest official estimate of tobacco production in India in 1955 is placed at 555.5 million pounds from 860,000 acres. This is a decrease in acreage of 5.7 percent as compared with last year, while output is 7.5 percent below the revised estimate of production in 1954--now placed at 600 million pounds. Most of the decline occurred in the States of Andhra and Bombay.

Flue-cured tobacco production in 1955 is estimated at 119 million pounds from 178,000 acres as compared with 130 million pounds from 188,000 acres in 1954. This decline resulted from unfavorable weather during the transplanting and early growing season. The 1954 output of flue-cured tobacco is more than 22 percent above the previously reported figure of 106 million pounds.

DOMINICAN CIGARETTE IMPORTATION LAW REVOKED

The law passed on June 30, 1955, by the Government of the Dominican Republic requiring that all imported cigarettes be marked with the inscription, "Republica Dominicana," has been revoked by a law passed October 15, 1955. The law was to have been effective early in October.

CHILEAN CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTINUES UPWARD

Consumption of tobacco products in Chile continued an upward trend through 1954 and was about 65 percent greater than the 1935-39 annual average. Consumption of cigarettes alone was about 80 percent above the prewar level and represents about 98 percent of total consumption. Consumption of cigars and smoking tobacco was only about one-third that of the prewar annual average.

CHILE: Consumption of tobacco products, as indicated by sales, with comparisons

Year	Cigarettes	Cigars	Smoking Tobacco	Estimated Total
	Million pieces	Million pieces	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1935-39 average	3,045	6.6	732	7,520
1947-51 average	5,074	3.9	322	11,550
1952	5,193	2.7	361	11,900
1953	5,382	2.3	339	12,210
1954	5,466	2.2	254	12,310

Source: Estadistica Chilena, December 1954.

FINNISH DEMAND FOR U.S. LEAF MAY INCREASE

Finland's imports of unmanufactured tobacco in the January-August period of 1955, as indicated by clearances from bond, totaled 8.4 million pounds as compared with 7.5 million pounds in the comparable period of 1954. Takings of United States leaf, mainly flue-cured and Burley, increased from 2.5 to 2.7 million pounds, resulting from increased consumption of "American Blended" type cigarettes. Consumption of these brands, which contain from 50 to 75 percent United States leaf, now represents about 24 percent of total cigarette consumption in contrast to 20 percent last year.

The output of cigarettes in the first 8 months of 1955 was slightly below that of last year. The decline in production occurred because one of the principal cigarette manufacturers suspended production for two months while moving to a new and larger factory. Production has been resumed in the new factory at the rate of 2 million cigarettes a day. However, with the installation of the newly purchased equipment, a theoretical daily output of 4 million cigarettes may be attained by this manufacturer, who is the principal user of United States leaf in Finland.

LARGE 1955 TOBACCO CROP IN TURKEY: DEMAND IS HIGH

The 1955 tobacco crop in Turkey is estimated by the Turkish Tobacco Monopoly at 255.7 million pounds, an increase of almost 21 percent as compared with the 1954 crop, which is now placed at 211.6 million pounds. The bulk of the production is Smyrna aromatic tobacco grown in the Aegean District, which accounts for about 145 million pounds or 57 percent of the 1955 crop. Samsun and Baffra varieties are grown in the Black Sea area and production in this area in 1955 is estimated at 60 million pounds or about 23 percent of the total. Output in the Marmara District is placed at almost 40 million pounds or 15 percent of the 1955 crop, while Eastern Turkey accounts for only 11 million pounds or 4 percent of the total.

The quality of the 1955 crop in the Aegean District is about average, but is somewhat below that of the unusually good crop produced in 1954. In this District, American grades normally account for about 75 percent of production, but the proportion in such grades was about 78 percent in 1953 and 83 percent in 1954. While American grades in the 1955 crop are good, the crop is spotty and will require careful manipulation in order to screen out the non-American grades. Quality of leaf grown in the Black Sea area this year is good; however, difficulties due to unfavorable weather were encountered in curing the last pickings, which normally account for the high-quality aromatic grades in the Black Sea, Marmara, and Aegean areas.

The demand for Turkish leaf, particularly European grades, has increased greatly in recent years and prices have risen substantially so that the spread between prices of American and non-American grades is much less than it normally has been in the past. Shipments of American grades to the United States continue at high levels, and purchases by several European countries have been up considerably in the past two or three years. Purchases by the United States averaged 68.5 million pounds in 1953 and 1954, and accounted for 46 percent of the total leaf exports from Turkey in those years. Sales to Iron Curtain countries have become increasingly important, with shipments to this area in 1954 totaling 24.6 million pounds. Most of this was taken by East Germany, while Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary also took large quantities. Tobacco shipped to the Soviet Bloc moves under trade agreements by which Turkey imports products (mainly manufactured goods) from these countries. Prices received for leaf sold to the Iron Curtain and Tobacco Monopoly countries are substantially higher than the prices of similar quality leaf sold to most other areas, but these are more than offset by higher prices paid for the items imported by Turkey from these countries under terms of the trade agreements.

In the Aegean District, which accounts for most of the exports, prices paid for American grades in the early part of the 1955 export season beginning in September (1954 manipulated crop) were about 6 to 7 percent above prices of similar grades last year. The export prices of American grades in this District are expected to average 66 to 70 cents per pound as compared with 63 to 67 cents last season. Prices paid for Samsun and Baffra leaf (produced in the Black Sea area) are expected to average considerably higher than last year.

As a result of the unusually high demand for Turkish leaf and continuing inflation of the Turkish currency, prices (at controlled exchange rates) for the 1955 export season are expected to set a new all-time record. This will probably stimulate production in Turkey, which would result in a further increase in competition faced by United States leaf in European markets in the next few years.

While the demand for Oriental tobacco is strong, prices are already high and continue to increase. The wide disparity between the official rate of exchange established by the Turkish Government (2.80 liras per dollar) and the "unofficial" rate (7.00 to 8.50 liras per dollar) causes the price to be very high to hard-currency countries, which do not purchase under barter or compensation-type trade agreements.

Purchases by the Turkish Tobacco Monopoly for domestic use normally average about 45 million pounds annually and are made principally from producing areas in Northern and Eastern Turkey, with only small amounts from the Aegean District. It is expected that the quantity purchased this year from the 1954 crop will be higher than usual in order to replenish stocks, which are at a low level.

TURKEY: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco by country of destination, 1951-54

Country of Destination	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	69.7	51.7	72.1	64.9
Germany, Rep. of	9.7	20.8	22.3	12.1
East Germany	1/	3.1	2.3	12.2
United Kingdom	3.1	3.7	10.3	10.8
Soviet Bloc 2/	7.1	12.3	5.7	12.4
Other	34.3	31.6	45.4	26.3
Total	123.9	123.2	158.1	138.7

1/ If any, included in other.
2/ Excluding East Germany.
Prepared in the Foreign Agricultural Service from data in Statistique Annuelle du Commerce Exterieur.

NYASALAND'S FIRE-CURED PRICES BELOW U. S. SUPPORT LEVEL

A comparison of prices paid at the Limbe auction market for Nyasaland's fire-cured leaf with the season's average prices and price-support levels for United States fire-cured for the past five years are shown in the accompanying table. Prices received for fire-cured leaf in the United States have ranged from two to three times the level of prices received for fire-cured leaf in Nyasaland in the four years prior to 1955.

(Cont'd., next page.)

While the 1955 average price in Nyasaland was higher than in previous years as a result of a sharp drop in production, it still was about 13 cents a pound below the price-support level established for the 1955 United States crop.

Nyasaland is the world's third largest producer of fire-cured tobacco, being surpassed by the United States and Italy, and is second only to the United States in exports of this type of leaf. Largely due to the wide difference in prices in the two countries, Nyasaland has a competitive advantage in moving tobacco into markets in Western Africa and elsewhere, which have historically been supplied by exporters in this country. Nyasaland leaf also has a lower import duty in the United Kingdom and other British Commonwealth Countries.

Fire-cured tobacco prices in the United States and Nyasaland, 1951-55
(Cents per pound)

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
United States:					
Price-support level	37.4	37.1	35.0	34.8	34.6
Season's average price	40.0	37.6	33.8	37.8	1/
Nyasaland:					
Season's average price	13.6	19.2	16.2	15.8	21.5

1/ Not available.

FRENCH TOBACCO IMPORTS UP 18.8 PERCENT IN FIRST HALF '55

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by the French Tobacco Monopoly in first half 1955 totaled 33.1 million pounds--up 18.8 percent from the 27.9 million pounds imported in the corresponding period of 1954. Most of the increase occurred in larger takings from South American countries.

FRANCE: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco in the January-June periods, 1954-55

Country of Origin	January-June 1954	January-June 1955	Percent change from January-June 1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
French Overseas Territories	7,784	4,564	- 41.4
United States	2,919	4,952	+ 69.6
South America	3,181	7,449	+134.2
Oriental Countries	10,776	12,901	+ 19.7
Others	3,195	3,223	+ .9
Total	27,855	33,089	+ 18.8

Source: French Tobacco Monopoly (S.E.I.T.A.)

Imports of United States leaf increased 70 percent from the comparable six months last year. Imports of Kentucky fire-cured increased 2.6 million pounds, whereas flue-cured and Burley declined 74 and 7 percent, respectively. The increase in takings of Kentucky fire-cured leaf was partially due to reduced consignments from the colonial territories, particularly Madagascar.

Takings of oriental tobaccos have been stepped up and may increase further due to a recent trade agreement concluded with Bulgaria, which includes tobacco as one of the items to be exported to France in exchange for French industrial goods. Also, the level of imports from South America may rise because of a recent trade agreement by the French Government, which authorized imports of Dominican Republic tobaccos with a minimum annual value of $1 million (about 4 million pounds) in exchange for French goods.

VENEZUELA TOBACCO IMPORTS CONTINUE RISE IN FIRST HALF '55

Venezuela's imports of unmanufactured tobacco in first half 1955 totaled 0.8 million pounds as compared with 0.4 million pounds in the corresponding period of 1954. Imports of United States leaf continued to increase in second quarter 1955 and now represent about 66 percent of total imports. Takings of United States leaf in the January-June period have exceeded all preceding calendar years except 1952 when imports totaled 531,320 pounds. (See table below. Text continues, next page.)

VENEZUELA: Imports of tobacco in the January-June periods, 1954-55

Country of Origin	January-June 1954	January-June 1955
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Unmanufactured tobacco:		
United States	218	512
Turkey	113	208
British East Africa	20	5
Greece	-	23
Syria	-	19
Tunisia	-	13
Other	2	1
Total	353	781
Cigarettes:		
United States	1,086	1,455
United Kingdom	31	34
Italy	-	2
Other	-	-
Total	1,117	1,491

Takings of Turkish and British East African leaf declined substantially in second quarter 1955 in contrast to the comparable quarter of 1954. New sources of leaf in the April-June period 1955 were Greece, Syria, and Tunisia. Takings of leaf from these new suppliers accounted for about 10 percent of Venezuela's total imports.

Imports of cigarettes continued upward in first half 1955, with increasing quantities from the United States. According to a report, most of the increase in cigarette imports may represent the improvement in controlling smuggling by the Venezuelan customs service.

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FIRST POSTWAR MILK BARS OPERATE IN U.K.

The British Milk Marketing Boards, in an effort to increase consumption of fluid milk in the United Kingdom, have cooperated with dairy organizations in sponsoring portable milk bars at agricultural fairs and other outdoor events.

"The Milk Producer" published by the Board, reports that this is the first time since the war that this type of project has been put into effect, and results at 63 fairs this year have been encouraging. Drinks sold are usually fluid milk alone or in milk shakes, but one enterprising partnership offered a milk cocktail of milk, grated Parmesan cheese, tomato puree, egg, salk, pepper, and paprika. The number of "cocktails" sold was not stated but in the 63 fairs more than 180,000 milk drinks were sold.

NEW ZEALAND POWDERED MILK PRICE IMPROVES IN U.K.

Since May, there has been a general firming of wholesale prices of New Zealand powdered milk products on the United Kingdom market. September wholesale prices reported by the New Zealand Dairy Products Commission were 9.6 cents a pound for spray-process skim milk powder, 8.2 cents a pound for spray-process buttermilk powder, and 7.6 cents a pound for roller-process buttermilk powder.

In July, 1954, the United Kingdom- New Zealand long-term contract was abrogated, with the United Kingdom offering to take one-fifth of the contract amount at 5.6 cents a pound f.o.b., a drop of about 50 percent from the contract figure. In November, 1954, the first free-market shipment of spray skim milk from New Zealand sold in London for 8.2 cents a pound wholesale; in January this price dropped to 7.6 cents a pound.

The rise in price, starting in May, has been attributed to diminished United Kingdom Ministry of Food stocks, increased seasonal demand, principally from the ice cream industry, and increased diversion of skim milk in New Zealand to casein production, (See Foreign Crops and Markets, July 11, 1955).

CANADIAN DAIRY SITUATION

Canadian milk production continues its upward trend. In the first eight months of this year production was 11,753 million pounds compared with 11,708 million pounds for the same period of 1954. Production in July was somewhat disappointing because of the drought in that month in the leading dairy provinces, Ontario and Quebec. However, with the more moderate weather in August and September, pastures recovered and milk production in the remaining months of the year is expected at least to equal that of a year ago. Fluid milk consumption continued high, and so far in 1955 has been about 4 percent above 1954.

Creamery butter production in the first nine months of 1955 has been keeping pace with that of comparable 1954. Butter stocks on October 1 are usually the highest of any time during the year, and on October 1, 1955, were the highest on record. The Canadian Government continues to support butter at 58 cents a pound.

Cheddar cheese production in the January-September period was down about 9 percent from the corresponding period of 1954. Consumption was about 10 percent higher. Exports amounted to 5.6 million pounds compared with 1.3 million pounds a year ago, but are still considerably below exports of the war and postwar years. Cheddar cheese exports so far this year were directed almost entirely to the United Kingdom. It is expected that Canadian exports to the United Kingdom will increase in the next few months. Cheddar cheese stocks on October 1 were down 10 percent from last year.

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NORTHERN MEXICAN CATTLE INDUSTRY CONDITION IMPROVED

Although there are no official data available, it is generally known that the cattle industry of Northern Mexico has improved considerably because of relatively heavy rainfall. Pastures are green even in arid sections, such as the northern part of the State of Nuevo Leon. Cattle continue to gain weight and are in excellent condition. In the Huasteca section of the State of San Luis Potosi, which is a stock raising section, some cattle were lost in the recent flood. However, these losses were confined to a relatively small area. (Cont'd., next page.)

There are no data available as to the number of animals exported to the United States from this district in the third quarter, but it is believed that there has been a decline. The animals are reported fatter and bringing more on the domestic market. The Ministry of Agriculture recently announced that it had acquired several blooded bulls which would be made available to cattle raisers to improve the quality of their herds. The seven-year drought caused the number of animals to decrease and the quality of the herds to deteriorate considerably. It will take two or three years, so stock raisers claim, to rehabilitate the cattle industry in the northern part of the country.

URUGUAYAN LIVESTOCK SITUATION BETTER

As a result of better pasture conditions brought about by abundant rains there has been some improvement in the Uruguayan livestock situation. In spite of the general improvement, the cattle shortage continues to be serious.

The wool market has remainded inactive. In the marketing year October 1, 1954-September 30, 1955, wool exports dropped to 128,940 bales, or 18 percent less than last year. Uruguay enters the new marketing year with a carryover of wool estimated at 59 million pounds, greasy basis, one-quarter of last year's supply (1954-55 clip plus old wool carry-in). The new clip is not expected to be greatly different from the estimated 198 million pounds produced last season. In an effort to ease the situation, the Uruguayan government, as reported in the September 26, 1955, issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, has decreed an export payment for greasy and washed wool. The payment comes in the form of premiums on dollars earned from exports. The premium will be 21 centesimos (about 10 cents) for each dollar's worth of wool exported in the remainder of this year, 14 centesimos on exports during the first quarter of next year, and 7 centesimos for dollars earned in the second quarter.

There was an increase in cattle slaughter during September. However, exact figures are not yet available.

Uruguayan exports to the United States consisted primarily of wool, and secondarily of canned meat, for a total value of $633,759 (less than half of last year's $1,513,798).

NEW AUSTRIAN TARIFF LAW: LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

In a new tariff law recently announced by the Austrian government, slaughter cattle, tallow, goose fat, hog fat, lard, meat (fresh, frozen, or salted), and salted or dried fish are duty free. Meat extracts in 5 kg. (11-lb.) containers, for the preparation of soup products, maybe imported by license at a tariff rate of 105 schillings ($4.05) per hundred kg.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES

Wool sales were held in Sydney, Adelaide and Albury, Australia, during the week ending October 14, 1955. The offerings were mainly topmaking wools of average to good quality. Japan, the United Kingdom, and continental countries were the chief buyers, with appreciable support from local mills. Prices were generally firm. The highest price paid was about 91 cents a pound, greasy basis, for grade AAAAc wool. Numerous sales of best quality merino were made at 77 to 88 cents a pound.

Australian Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification (current prices with comparisons)

	Week Ending--			
	10/1/55	10/7/55	10/14/55	10/15/54
	- - - - -U. S. dollars per pound- - - - -			
Combing Wools				
Good 70's	1.64	1.27	1/ 1.28	1/ 1.61
Average 70's	1.58	1.20	1.21	1.52
Good 64's	1.49	1.11	1.11	1.43
Average 64's	1.43	1.07	1.07	1.33
Good 60's	1.39	1.01	1.00	1.33
Average 60's	1.31	.97	.96	1.21
Good 58's	1.27	.94	.93	1.21
Average 58's	-	.90	.90	-
Good 56's	1.19	.89	.88	1.16
Average 56's	-	.84	.84	-
Good 50's	1.01	.78	.77	1.00
Average 50's	-	.77	.76	-
Carding Wools				
Merino	.85	.67	.67	.70
Comeback	.79	.63	.63	.65
Fine Crossbred	.77	.62	.62	.63
Medium Crossbred	.76	.62	.62	1/ .63

1/ Quotations nominal.

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES IMPORTS OF U. S. PORK LIVERS

In late September the French Ministry of Agriculture authorized the importation of $400,000 worth of pork livers for manufacturing purposes. These importations result from a "compensation arrangement" whereby French exporters will sell gloves, bicycles, and other products to the United States. Pork livers are now being shipped under this arrangement.

The entry of United States meat products into France is of unusual interest. France has been issuing import licenses only for products determined to be essential to the economy, and production of meat in France continues at record levels.

Meat prices continue high, and demand strong. The governmental price-support agency has purchased only small amounts of meat in the past month, although slaughter of sheep and cattle are seasonally large at this time. Apparently there has been little change in hog slaughter this fall compared with a year ago.

Paté made from pork liver is popular in France. The French import duty on pork livers is 11 percent ad valorem.

VENEZUELAN CHICK IMPORT SITUATION

Chicks imported into Venezuela from the United States are fed on locally mixed feed protected by a customs duty of $2 per 100 pounds on imported feed. They are marketed chiefly as nonfrozen dressed birds. Profit depends almost wholly on how many chicks are being fed in each quarter. Chick imports are licensed by the Ministry of Development; and the quantity approved for entry each quarter is a number that the Ministry of Agriculture believes can be absorbed by normal marketing at profitable prices to producers.

Policy so far has been to protect broiler producers by recommending conservative import quotas. When dressed birds sell at $1.50 a pound, however, well over normal market price, importers, producers, and the public complain--and pressure is brought to bear on the Ministry of Agriculture to increase quotas. On the other hand, when import quotas are too liberal, producers are not pleased. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture has been attempting in the past year to match import quotas to potential market demand.

Realistic estimates are difficult to make because actual imports have been running about one-third higher than the number officially authorized. All chick imports are by air and the numbers are not reported in the Venezuelan monthly statistical summary of imports.

The market currently favors the consumer and not the producer, with freshly dressed birds wholesaling at 50 cents a pound and retailing at 80 cents; and feed is retailing at $9 to $10 per 100 pounds.

VENEZUELA: SHELL EGG IMPORTS

Venezuela is a large importer of eggs. In the first 6 months of 1955 Venezuela imported approximate by $4.4 million worth of shell eggs from the United States, Denmark, and Canada. The United States' share was more than half of this total. Shell eggs continue to enter duty-free at all ports and retail at approximately half the price of local fresh eggs. Local fresh eggs may include any proportion of imported eggs up to 100 percent. Fair quality United States pullet eggs are retailing at 65 cents a dozen and Canadian eggs at 72.

Eggs from Argentina, reported to be of good quality, are also presently entering Venezuela.

BELGIAN FLAX PRODUCTION INCREASING

A sizable increase in Belgian flax fiber production in 1955 is indicated because of a 10-percent increase in cultivated area, and better yields due to favorable weather throughout the season. Production of straw this year is expected to be about 540.2 million pounds from 87.5 million acres compared with 476.7 million pounds from 79.2 million acres in 1954.

Scutching in the first seven months of this year produced 51.7 million pounds of fiber, probably mostly from the 1954 crop. Total production of scutched fiber in 1954 reached 117.1 million pounds, or almost 6 percent greater than the 101.0 million pounds produced in 1953.

Considerable quantities of flax straw are imported into Belgium from the Netherlands and France, and considerable quantities of scutched fiber are exported to the United Kingdom and various continental European countries. Flax import trade in calendar year 1954 was 374.0 million pounds of flax straw (retted or unretted), 11.2 million pounds of scutched fiber, 13,000 pounds of combed fiber, 9.5 million pounds of tow, and 6.2 million of waste. On the other hand, the export trade consisted of only 0.2 million pounds of flax straw, but 126.0 million pounds of scutched fiber, 0.7 million of combed fiber, 23.6 million of tow, and 33.7 million of waste. It is estimated on the basis of figures for January-July that both the import and the export trade will be larger for 1955 than for the past year. Consumption is expected to increase by about a third, and year-end stocks of raw fiber may be as much as 15 or 20 percent greater than on December 31, 1954. (Cont'd. next page.)

Flax markets are quiet now. A large part of the local crop has already been sold to dealers, and prices were reported as satisfactory. Flax yarns are not moving as satisfactorily as the fiber, however, because of competition from other countries where yarn is manufactured.

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WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION AT ALL-TIME HIGH

World production of soybeans in 1955 is expected to reach an all-time high of almost 764 million bushels on the basis of preliminary information now available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This forecast represents an increase of 6 percent from the 1954 revised estimate of 717 million bushels and is roughly two-thirds larger than average output in prewar years.

Over two-thirds of the estimated 47-million-bushel increase from 1954 is accounted for by the United States, an estimated one-fifth by China-Manchuria, and most of the remainder by Japan. The only declines from last year--and those were of minor importance--appear to have occurred in Brazil and Canada.

Increased soybean production in the United States coupled with increases in the production of lard and peanuts means that total supplies of all food fats in 1955-56 will be about as large as last year's record quantity, with the over-all increase in production offsetting the decline in beginning stocks of all food fats. Large quantities of soybeans and soybean oil will be available for export, and market prospects are good. The extent to which the probable increase in China's production will supply the needs of available markets--particularly Europe and Japan--remains uncertain. However, with an indicated shortage of vegetable oils in China, soybean exports from there probably will remain well below prewar in the year ahead.

Soybean production in the United States is indicated at a record 374,816,000 bushels from an estimated 18,397,000 harvested acres. This is an increase of 9 percent from the previous record in 1954 and 57 percent from the 10-year (1944-53) average. With continued restrictions on acreage planted to corn, wheat, and cotton, a record 19,860,000 acres of soybeans were planted for all purposes. However, as a result of drought and extremely high temperatures throughout much of August in the western part of the "soybelt", the crop was not as large as anticipated earlier.

For the first time since 1943, production of soybeans in Canada has failed to exceed that of the previous year. The 1955 crop, forecast at 4,708,000 bushels, is about 5 percent below last year's record 4,953,000 bushels, but is 67 percent above the 10-year (1945-54) average. The decrease in this year's crop is due entirely to a reduction in area from 254,000 acres in 1954 to 214,000 in 1955, average yields having increased from 19.5 bushels per acre last year to an indicated 22.0 bushels this year. In Canada, soybeans are produced commercially only in Ontario although efforts are being made to introduce the crop elsewhere, particularly in Manitoba. (See table opposite page. Text continues, p. 518.)

SOYBEANS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-1955 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1953	1954	1955 3/	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1953	1954	1955 3/	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1953	1954	1955 3/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada	4/ 10	73	216	254	214	21.3	20.5	20.4	19.5	22.0	4/ 207	1,491	4,406	4,953	4,708
United States 5/	3,042	10,649	14,679	17,037	18,397	18.5	19.6	18.3	20.1	20.4	56,167	208,885	268,528	342,795	374,816
EUROPE															
Italy	6/	4	1	1	-	12.1	17.8	25.4	24.4	-	4/ 1	74	35	24	-
Yugoslavia	5	15	4	-	-	14.9	10.1	-	-	-	71	155	55	-	-
Other Europe	93	70	100	90	95	-	-	-	-	-	1,067	455	580	520	530
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	7/ 607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/ 5,805	-	-	-	-
ASIA															
Turkey	7/ 1	4/ 4	10	12	-	29.0	10.9	12.6	11.9	-	7/ 37	45	125	147	-
China	12,411	11,256	-	-	-	16.7	16.9	-	-	-	207,666	190,248	198,000	(320,000	(330,000
Manchuria	8,992	4/ 7,048	8,200	-	-	16.8	16.5	16.3	-	-	151,294	4/ 116,475	134,000		
Indonesia	8/ 889	7/ 872	1,161	-	-	10.0	11.2	9.3	-	-	8/ 9,731	7/ 9,736	10,839	14,567	15,000
Japan	797	612	1,041	1,082	1,054	15.6	12.1	15.1	12.8	18.0	12,338	7,432	15,777	13,816	19,000
Korea 9/	4/ 1,921	583	617	637	-	10.0	8.5	8.1	8.8	-	17,654	4,984	4,995	5,628	-
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/ 17	32	69	-	74	8.9	9.4	9.3	-	11.4	4/ 151	297	640	661	845
Thailand	4/ 15	4/ 17	54	-	-	15.4	10.1	-	13.9	-	4/ 232	4/ 167	743	-	-
SOUTH AMERICA															
Brazil 10/	-	23	148	162	170	-	19.0	21.9	25.0	21.6	-	446	3,242	4,042	3,674
AFRICA															
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	25	-	-
Union of South Africa	-	4/ 10	8	-	-	-	5.2	8.2	-	-	-	4/ 54	68	-	-
Total excluding "Other Europe," U.S.S.R., Chinese Mainland and North Korea	5,670	12,960	18,110	20,925	22,205	-	-	-	-	-	87,185	234,405	310,410	388,515	425,080
World total 11/	29,000	32,675	39,660	42,765	44,050	-	-	-	-	-	463,720	551,540	651,250	717,295	763,870

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest. Southern Hemisphere crops which are harvested in the early part of the year are combined with those of the Northern Hemisphere harvested the latter part of the same year. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Acreage harvested for beans. 6/ Less than 500 acres. 7/ One year only. 8/ Java and Madura only. 9/ Beginning with 1948 figures represent South Korea only. 10/ Rio Grande do Sul and Sao Paulo. 11/Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attachés and other United States representatives abroad, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries, except as noted.

Soybean production in China-Manchuria is believed to have increased somewhat in 1955. Output may have been in the neighborhood of 330 million bushels compared with an unofficial estimate of 320 million last year. These estimates indicate that output has not regained the prewar average level of almost 360 million bushels.

Japan is expected to harvest a near-record crop of approximately 19 million bushels, which would exceed the 1954 outturn by about 38 percent. The increase appears to have been due to an above-average yield per acre, as the area in soybeans reportedly was slightly less than in 1953.

Production in Indonesia is forecast at roughly 15 million bushels. In Taiwan, where soybean production has expanded significantly since prewar years, a goal of 845,000 bushels was set for 1955. An output of this volume would represent an increase of more than one-fourth from last year's crop.

Brazil's soybean crop was down 9 percent from 1954. An estimated 3,674,000 bushels were harvested in Rio Grande do Sul from a planted area of about 170,000 acres. Very little production was expected in other states this year. Soybeans have not proved to be popular outside of Rio Grande do Sul because of a shortage of mechanized equipment and competition from other more profitable crops.

A relatively insignificant volume of soybeans is grown in Africa. Nigeria, with a production for export of 325,000 to 350,000 bushels, appears to be the major producer. Smaller quantities are grown in the Union of South Africa, British East Africa, and a few other countries.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

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PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

World Production of Sugar Beets Up in 1955. Foreign Ag. Circ. FS-5-55

Olive Industry in Lower California, Mexico. Foreign Ag. Report No. 85

1955 World Milk Production Estimates. Foreign Ag. Circ. FD-13-55

Panamanian Policies Affect Trade. Foreign Ag. Circ. FATP-38-55

The Netherlands as a Market for United States Farm Products. Foreign Ag.

(Cont'd., p. 532)

AGRICULTURE AND TRADE
ROUNDUP: LATIN AMERICA

Argentina Readjusts Trade Exchange Rates.--The Finance Minister in Argentina has announced a single official exchange rate of 18.00 pesos to the dollar both for imports and exports; and restoration of a true free market, with the rate determined by demand and supply. The "free market" rate will apply to new capital investments and repatriation, remittances of earnings since June 1930, and certain imports and exports to which the official rate is not applicable. The previous multiple exchange rate structure had four different categories. These buying rates for exports were as follows:

1. The Basic buying rate for exports of 5 pesos to the dollar. This has been used primarily for cereals, cotton, flaxseed, edible oils, meats, and hides.

2. The Preferential rate of 7.50 pesos to the dollar, used mostly for tung oil.

3. The officially controlled Free Official rate, always near 14 to the dollar with only a narrow spread of a few centavos between buying and selling rates.

4. The Mixed rates, which have been used for many commodities. Wool, for example, is made up of 50 percent basic rate and 50 percent preferential or a combined rate of 6.25.

The previous selling rate for exchange to pay for most imports was 7.50 pesos to the dollar, and there was a preferential selling rate of 5 pesos applicable to imports of petroleum and coal. This rate structure was established at the time of the general devaluation of August 1950.

Guatemala and France Sign Trade Agreement.--Guatemala and France on October 17 exchanged notes establishing a simple commercial agreement granting to the products of either country most-favored-nation treatment. The benefits of the agreement are extended to numerous French territories as listed in the annex to the agreement. Guatemalan exports to France consist principally of coffee, and imports comprise alcoholic beverages, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, textiles, clothing, tires, and iron and steel products. An earlier agreement between the two countries was terminated in 1953 by Guatemala.

Brazilian Trade-Policy Developments.--Staff work has been completed on a new customs tariff under preparation for more than four years. The new tariff must be approved by the Congress before becoming effective. It is to be on an ad valorem basis and will provide rates varying from 10 percent or less for imports considered essential to as much as 150 percent on luxury goods. (Cont'd., next page.)

Although four bilateral agreements have been extended for three-month periods (with France, Spain, Japan, and Yugoslavia), interest in Brazil is now centered in the new multilateral area of limited exchange convertibility. (See Foreign Crops and Markets for August 15, 1955.) It is expected that the present bilateral arrangements will be replaced as promptly as possible by broader multilateral agreements or new-type bilateral pacts.

Hurricanes and Floods May Reduce Mexico's Agricultural Production.--The tropical hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast of Mexico in late September had disastrous effects in that area. Estimates indicate that 740,000 acres of crop land were affected. The crops most seriously damaged were corn, beans, cotton, and bananas. Cotton will be affected mostly by a lowering of the grade rather that a decrease in total production. This will reduce the country's income, however, as there is a wide price differential between grades.

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SWEDEN HAS SHORTAGE OF COARSE GRAINS AND HIGH-PROTEIN FEEDS

Because of unfavorable weather in Sweden last spring and summer and the adverse effect on domestic grain production, that country's imports of coarse grains and high-protein feeds in 1955-56 (July-June) may be as much as 150,000 metric tons above the 1954-55 level. This represents an increase of over 40 percent, as imports of these types of feeds in 1954-55 amounted to about 350,000 metric tons. United States exporters should share in the increased imports, because transit dollars are fully available to Swedish importers at a premium of only 1 percent.

Increased import of coarse grains in 1955-56 is only one of the steps that Sweden and Swedish farmers are taking to alleviate the shortage of livestock feeds this year. In addition, the Government recently suspended import tariffs and excises on wheat and rye imported for feed use. Such imported wheat and rye will be colored at the point of entry so as to render it unfit for human consumption. Moreover, it is expected that the use of domestic wheat and rye for feed will be above normal. Finally, current indications are that more than the usual proportion of farm animals will be slaughtered, that Swedish farmers will increase the use of lower grade feeds such as hay and straw and other roughages, and that they will otherwise reduce the intensity of feeding.

Rainfall was below normal in March, April, June, July, and August in all principal grain-producing areas. In August precipitation was only one-third of normal. Combined with this was excessive heat in the summer months, with the result that grain ripened prematurely. Production of bread grains was not affected much, but, according to latest unofficial estimates, the 1955 harvest of coarse grains was about 17 percent below that of last year. In addition, the oats crop was lower in quality than normal. Although widespread rains occurred early in September, they came too late to be of appreciable benefit; the bulk of the grain had already been harvested.

BRAZILIAN COTTON EXPORTS BELOW LAST YEAR

Cotton exports from Brazil in the August-July 1954-55 marketing year are estimated at 1,020,000 bales (500 pounds gross), or 27 percent less than the near-record exports of 1,412,000 bales in 1953-54. Brazil's cotton exports have been as high as 1,609,000 bales (1938-39) and were 1,517,000 in 1946-47. Since the latter date, however, they have diminished each year, dropping to the lowest point in 20 years in 1952-53, when they amounted to only 145,000 bales. (See table below. Text cont'd., next page.)

BRAZIL: Cotton exports by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-54

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				
	Averages				
	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Canada	4.2	16.2	1/	18.8	3.7
Belgium/Luxembourg	30.0	70.7	0	53.8	26.8
Finland	2.3	10.2	0	0	0
France	89.5	64.1	4.3	140.7	27.3
Germany	285.6	.6	4.2	238.5	169.0
Italy	39.3	110.5	0	117.0	68.1
Netherlands	33.3	43.3	0	66.8	52.1
Poland	17.2	49.2	0	2.3	18.6
Portugal	26.4	11.2	2.1	11.9	14.0
Spain	2.8	136.3	29.9	64.6	90.9
Sweden	5.2	48.5	.5	25.0	8.9
United Kingdom	240.5	336.8	69.3	223.5	94.8
China	81.7	79.2	0	42.1	28.4
Hong Kong	0	1.4	0	62.8	18.8
India	0	7.5	0	1.8	0
Japan	241.7	.9	24.9	246.8	212.1
Chile	0	11.5	8.7	9.4	1.6
Colombia	.7	17.8	0	1.6	.4
Uruguay	0	7.2	.7	15.7	17.7
Australia	0	25.9	0	9.2	1.4
Other countries	11.7	67.1	0	59.4	42.8
Total	1,112.1	1,116.1	144.6	1,411.7	2/ 897.4

1/ Less than 50 bales. 2/ Total tentatively revised to 1,020,000 bales, but country breakdown not yet available.

Compiled from Comercio Exterior do Brazil: Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

High internal prices of cotton in 1954-55 have tended to interfere with the regular export pattern of Brazilian cotton, especially in the first six months of 1955. April, with exports of 28,000 bales, marked the lowest point in exports since July 1953, when only 23,000 bales were exported. The change in the export bonus for cotton in May 1955, which increased the cruzeiro rate for cotton trade from Cr$35.00 to Cr$43.06 per United States dollar, resulted in an appreciable increase in exports in the last three months of the cotton marketing year. Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom have been the principal destinations of Brazilian cotton in recent years, with Spain, Italy, and other European countries also taking sizable quantities.

Brazil's 1954-55 total cotton crop is estimated at 1,630,000 bales or 10 percent higher than the 1953-54 production of 1,465,000 bales. A further increase of at least 10 percent is anticipated for the 1955-56 crop, which would indicate a crop of about 1,800,000 bales. The 1955-56 harvest in North Brazil, which began last August, is estimated at 425,000 bales or 14 percent below the 1954-55 crop of 496,000 bales.

In South Brazil, where the 1955-56 crop is now being planted, acreage is expected to be increased by 20 to 30 percent if the weather remains favorable for planting. This increase is encouraged by high internal prices for cotton, made possible by special exchange rates. Also, coffee growers are resorting to cotton as a major source of income this year because of recent severe frost damage to their coffee trees in some areas.

Cotton production in South Brazil, harvested from March to June, is estimated at 1,140,000 bales for 1954-55, as compared with 1,125,000 bales for 1953-54.

A change in the varieties of cotton planted in North Brazil appears to be taking place in recent years. Seed of the Express variety (Upland type) from Sao Paulo is reportedly replacing the old variety Mata, which had been grown in North Brazil for many years. Current reports indicate that about 5 percent of the area formerly planted to Mata is now planted to the Express variety. Express cotton reportedly produces higher yields per acre than the Mata, and the lint outturn is placed at from 31 to 32 percent as compared with 28 to 29 percent for Mata. Increasing interest in insect control in North Brazil is also reported, particularly toward controlling the cotton leaf worm which is the most feared insect in that area.

Brazil's cotton consumption in August-July 1954-55 is estimated at 965,000 bales as compared with approximately 900,000 in 1953-54 and 850,000 in 1952-53. Cotton stocks on August 1, 1954, were estimated at 1,200,000 bales but dropped 30 percent during the marketing year to 830,000 bales on July 31, 1955.

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS, AUGUST-JULY 1954-55

United States imports of cotton (for consumption) in the year August-July 1954-55 amounted to 150,000 bales (480 pounds net) or 3 percent higher than imports of 145,000 bales in 1953-54. Imports in 1954-55 included: 99,000 bales of Egyptian-type cotton; 29,000 bales of Asiatic-type; and 22,000 bales of Upland type. The Egyptian type, or extra-long-staple cotton, is principally from Egypt and Peru, with a small quantity from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan; the Asiatic, or short staple cotton, harsh or rough, comes principally from India and Pakistan, with a small quantity from Burma; and the Upland type cotton comes principally from Mexico. (See table below. Text cont'd., p. 524.)

UNITED STATES: Imports of cotton by countries of origin; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1951-1954

(Bales of 480 pounds net)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	1/	2/ 2.9	3/	1.2	6.7	3.3
Brazil	3.0	.7	0	0	2.3	1.3
China	2/ 25.0	4/ .1	0	0	0	0
Egypt	62.6	102.7	36.6	116.9	77.0	5/ 73.4
India	66.9	103.2	12.2	36.4	18.1	17.4
Mexico	22.8	19.1	20.5	18.7	16.6	19.8
Pakistan	6/	7/ 7.4	3/	8.0	14.4	11.3
Peru	1.1	23.4	9.5	15.0	8.4	21.8
U.S.S.R	4/ 2.0	7/ .4	0	0	1.0	.9
Others	1.7	.4	.6	0	.6	.6
Total 8/	185.1	260.3	79.4	196.2	145.1	149.8

1/ Included with Egypt prior to 1942. 2/ 4-year average. 3/ Less than 50 bales. 4/ 2-year average. 5/ Includes 460 bales transshipped via Italy. 6/ Included with India prior to partition in 1947. 7/ 3-year average. 8/ Includes small quantities which are reexported each year.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

All imports of cotton into the United States, except very small quantities of 1-11/16 inches and over, are controlled by import quotas which are set for quota years differing from the August-July marketing year mentioned above. The quantities imported during the quota year therefore vary from those imported in the marketing year, and are shown in the table below. Quotas for Egyptian and Asiatic types are on a global basis, and the Upland quota is allocated on a country basis. Imports consistently run below quota levels. Comparison of cotton imports for the most recent quota year, with the respective quotas are as follows:

Comparison of United States cotton import quotas
with cotton imports in most recent quota year

(in equivalent bales of 480 pounds net)

Type of cotton, and quota year	Import quota	Cotton Imports
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Egyptian type:		
(year beginning February 1, 1954)........................	95.1	85.5
Asiatic type:		
(year beginning Sept. 20, 1954)........................	145.8	28.0
Upland type:		
(year beginning Sept. 20, 1954)........................	30.2	21.1

Source: United States Customs Bureau.

A report on imports of cotton into the United States since the beginning of the quota system will be released soon.

United States cotton imports in August 1955 amounted to 7,000 bales as compared with 10,000 bales in August 1954.

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U. S. COTTON LINTERS
EXPORTS, AUGUST 1955

Exports of cotton linters (mostly chemical grades, 5-7) from the United States in August 1955 amounted to 27,000 bales (480 pounds net) as compared with 17,000 bales in August 1954. Exports in the current month went principally to the United Kingdom (10,000 bales) and the Republic of Germany (9,000), with smaller quantities to Japan (4,000), Canada (2,000), France (1,000), and other countries.

U.S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS, AUGUST 1955

Imports of cotton linters (mostly felting grades, 1-4) into the United States in August 1955 amounted to 17,000 bales (480 pounds net) as compared with 9,000 bales in August 1954. The principal source was Mexico with 13,000 bales, followed by the U.S.S.R. with 2,000 bales, 1,000 from Brazil, 300 each from Peru and El Salvador, and 200 from India.

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TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE SHARPLY BELOW AVERAGE

Tunisian production of edible olive oil in the 1955-56 season is expected by reliable trade sources to amount to only 33,000 to 38,000 short tons. Such a yield would reach at most 58 percent of the 1950-54 average and 80 percent of the 1945-54 average and would be far short of the 1949-50 record of 115,740 tons. Oil production from the 1954 crop of olives was reported at 56,000 tons.

Crop prospects were good at the end of April but by the end of May in many producing areas failure of the blossoms to set and a shrinkage of the stems of the young olives clearly pointed to below-average results. In October all available reports confirmed this.

Tunisia's exportable surplus for the period November 1, 1955--October 31, 1956, thus may not exceed 14,000 tons, taking into account domestic consumption needs totaling 33,000 tons and a carryover of 11,000 tons from 1954-55.

Prices in recent months have remained relatively steady, with a slight upward tendency. Sfax spot quotations for the "lampante" grade are between 225 and 238 francs per kilogram (29.2 to 30.8 cents per pound) while "extra" and "surfine" oils range from 250 to 260 francs (32.4 to 33.7 cents). It may be reasonably assumed that prices will rise in the coming season. However, the fact that French colonial peanut oil is available at Marseille at a price level below that of "lampante" olive oil should prove a moderating factor.

The suspension of the 3.5 percent transaction tax on exports of olive oil exceeding 1.5 degrees of acidity, in effect since June 9, 1954, is to remain effective until October 31, 1956, according to an official order dated September 29, 1955 (Journal Officiel Tunisien No. 82, of October 14, 1955). Oils of lower acidity are already exempt from this tax.

Tunisia was represented at the International Olive Oil Conference held at Geneva by a delegation headed by Mr. Ben Cherifa, President of the Office de l'Huile d'Olive de Tunisie. According to press reports from Geneva, the French delegate at the Conference proposed that the Tunisians be accorded the status of a separate delegation in view of Tunisia's special position as a producer and consumer of olive oil.

MEXICO'S PRODUCTION OF FATS AND OILS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN IN 1954

Production of fats and oils in Mexico in 1955 is now estimated to be only about 2 percent larger than in 1954. Total output in 1955 is almost 283,900 short tons oil equivalent, as compared to approximately 277,600 short tons in 1954.

Table 1.-MEXICO: Production of fats and oils,
1953, 1954, and estimate 1955

(Short tons)

Oil or fat	1953	1954	Estimate 1955
Vegetable oil			
Cottonseed	71,870	87,510	107,360
Coconut	43,015	48,945	46,960
Palm	8,885	10,250	8,200
Sesame	43,330	41,965	40,970
Peanut	2,205	2,205	2,205
Linseed	5,290	5,250	3,370
Castor	1,180	1,300	1,300
Rapeseed	1,850	1,850	1,850
Total	177,625	199,275	212,215
Animal fats			
Lard	39,680	47,620	49,605
Tallow	27,355	30,680	22,045
Total	67,035	78,300	71,650
Total fats and oils	244,660	277,575	283,865

American Embassy, Mexico City.

The increase of about 10 percent that was forecast last April did not materialize, largely because of a decline in the production of coconut oil and a larger decline than expected in tallow production.

The decline in copra production has been due mainly to disease, and to damage caused by hurricanes. Hurricanes that hit the states of Campeche, Tabasco, Guerrero, and Colima resulted in some destruction of coconut trees and caused floods that made it impossible to move the copra to market in many districts.

The decline in tallow production was due mainly to drought (which prevailed until the middle of 1955), floods and the hurricanes that caused heavy losses of cattle in the Huasteca region and in the district of Tuxpan. Another contributing factor was the decline in slaughter at northern packing plants.

Unfavorable weather will also result in a lower production of sesame seed. Peanut production is now estimated at approximately the same as 1954, with the increase in area planted offsetting the decline in yields caused by bad weather. Flaxseed production has also declined, but it is reported that because of higher prices a larger area will be planted this fall for harvest in the spring of 1956.

Table 2.-MEXICO: Production of principal oil-bearing materials, 1953, 1954, and estimate 1955

(Short tons)

Oil-bearing material	1953	1954	1955 Estimate
Cottonseed	517,200	700,775	803,575
Copra	66,265	82,675	77,160
Palm nut kernels	14,330	16,535	13,230
Sesame seed	96,730	99,200	71,650
Peanuts, unshelled	80,050	88,185	88,185
Flaxseed 1/	34,170	16,535	11,025
Castor beans	2,995	3,300	3,305
Rapseed	6,600	6,600	6,615

1/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1953 - 1,220; 1954 - 590; 1955 - 395.

American Embassy, Mexico City.

Exports in 1955, as in recent years, consisted almost entirely of peanuts. In the first eight months of 1955 a total of about 34,660 tons of peanuts (unshelled basis) were exported, principally to the United States and Canada. The outlook for 1956 is that approximately the same quantity of peanuts as in 1955 will be available for export.

Imports of fats and oils in 1955 are estimated to include approximately 27,600 tons of tallow, 5,500 tons of lard, and about 6,900 tons of cottonseed for planting. Permits were granted for importing about 330 tons of linseed oil, but because of the prevailing high world prices it is expected that only about 125 tons will actually be imported.

The Chamber of the Oils, Fats, and Soap Industries has estimated import requirements for the coming year at about 55,000 tons, excluding lard. Approximately half of the authorizations already requested are for inedible tallow and the remainder for edible tallow and cottonseed oil. (No decisions have yet been made by the licensing authorities.) Imports of lard for 1956 are estimated at approximately the same level as in 1955--about 5,500 tons.

According to regulations issued a few months ago, inedible tallow offered for importation must be denatured with kerosene or fuel oil. This measure was taken in an effort to avoid the use of inedible tallow in food products. (Cont'd., next page.)

Wholesale prices of vegetable fats and oils in Mexico City rose in the first few months of 1955, reaching a maximum level during the month of May, and declining slightly since then. The price of lard declined slightly in the first half of 1955 from the record level attained in December 1954, but has since resumed its upward trend to approximately 22 U.S. cents per pound in September.

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INDIA'S OILSEED PRODUCTION UP 7 PERCENT IN 1954-55

India's production of oilseeds in the agricultural year 1954-55 (July-June), available for calendar year 1955, totaled 8,843,520 short tons from 30,879,000 acres compared with the preceding year's production of 8,248,800 tons from 29,026,000 acres. This is an increase of 7 percent from production of 1953-54 and about 25 percent from production of each of the two previous years.

TABLE 1.--INDIA: Oilseed production and acreage, 1953-54, 1954-55, and forecast 1955-56

Oilseed	1953-54 Revised	1954-55 Estimated	1955-56 Forecast
		1,000 short tons	
Production:			
Peanut 1/	4,002	4,282	4,256
Sesame seed	618	663	605
Castor beans 2/	121	125	3/
Rape and mustard seed	958	1,077	3/
Flaxseed	419	435	3/
Cottonseed	1,554	1,685	1,680
Copra 4/	577	577	577
Total	8,249	8,844	-
		1,000 acres	
Acreage:			
Peanut	10,869	12,647	12,200
Sesame seed	6,346	6,460	6,100
Castor beans 2/	1,373	1,273	3/
Rape and mustard seed	5,534	5,665	3/
Flaxseed	3,360	3,290	3/
Cottonseed 5/	-	-	3/
Copra 4/	1,544	1,544	1,544
Total	29,026	30,879	-

1/ Unshelled nuts. 2/ Acreage and production for pure crop only, based on official estimates. Trade estimates place the total crop, including pure and interplanted, at roughly double the official estimates of the pure crop. 3/ Too early to forecast the crop which is still being sown. 4/ 1952-53 crop provisionally estimated by the Indian Central Coconut Committee; no later estimates available. 5/ Area under cotton not included in total oilseed acreage.

The increase in production of oilseeds resulted mainly from larger acreages under peanuts, rape, and mustard seed, and cottonseed as there apparently has been no significant increase in the yield per acre in oilseeds. The increase is particularly significant in that for the five crops--peanuts, sesame, castor, rape and mustard, and flaxseed--it reflects an expansion of over 400,000 tons beyond the target set for the final year of India's First Five Year Plan.. The target relating to the five crops was set at 6,163,360 tons to be produced by 1955-56 or almost 450,000 tons above the base year 1950-51.

Now that the Second Five Year Plan is in the making the Government of India has recommended a target of 7.2 million tons of the above-mentioned oilseeds by 1960-61. Much of the planned increase will have to come from increased yields per acre.

Vegetable oil production available in calendar year 1955 totaled 1.7 million tons compared with 1.6 million in 1954 and 1.3 million in 1953. The Second Five Year Plan has tentatively placed the target at 2.2 million tons at the end of 1960-61.

Table 2.--INDIA: Vegetable oil production 1/ 1954, 1955, and forecast 1956

Vegetable oil	1954 Revised	1955 Estimated	1956 Forecast
		1,000 short tons	
Peanut	851	912	905
Sesame seed	205	219	202
Castor bean 2/	92	94	-
Rape and mustard seed	182	204	-
Linseed	123	128	-
Cottonseed	9	13	17
Coconut	130	130	130
Total	1,592	1,700	-

1/ Embassy estimates. 2/ Calculated on the basis of the total crop. See Note 2, Table 1.

From a period of high prices and scarcity of oilseeds and oil supplies during 1953 and the first half of 1954, India emerged in the latter half of 1954 into a period of fairly comfortable supply position that resulted in falling prices. To meet this change in the supply and price position within the country, it apparently became imperative to revise export policy, which was extremely restrictive in 1953. There was also increasing evidence that internal consumption had gone up. (Cont'd., next page.)

An unrestricted export policy could not therefore be adopted without jeopardizing the interests of the domestic consumer. Furthermore, a drastic change in export policy might have meant a return to domestic shortages. The Government of India therefore constantly kept under review the trends in the internal market and introduced changes in the export policy as the situation permitted. The results of the export policies followed by the Government of India for vegetable oilseeds and oils may be gauged from statistics of actual exports during the calendar years 1953 and 1954 and the first six months of 1955 as summarized in Table 3:

Table 3.-INDIA: Exports of vegetable oilseeds and oils, calendar years 1953-54 and January-June 1954-55

Commodity	1953	1954	January-June 1954	January-June 1955
	Short tons			
Linseed oil	8,189	4,319	1,081	39,315
Kardiseed	1/ 4,082	2/ 9,353	n.a.	n.a.
Kardiseed oil	1/ 28	2/ 7,446	n.a.	n.a.
Niger oil	-	2/ 1,299	n.a.	n.a.
Niger seed	13,972	13,396	11,340	7,579
Rape and mustard oil	210	535	355	1,587
Rape and mustard seeds	169	136	132	20
Cottonseed oil	n.a.	2/ 3,321	n.a.	n.a.
Peanut oil	17,190	31,002	3/	126,940
Peanuts	11,378	8,705	8,224	31,385
Castor oil 4/	31,512	31,077	8,155	23,267
Vanaspati	892	6,382	2,463	7,725

1/ Fiscal year 1953-54 (April-March). Calendar year exports not available.
2/ Fiscal year 1954-55 (April-March). Calendar year exports not available.
3/ Less than .5 ton. 4/ Exports of castor beans were not permitted during 1953-55.

Source: *Accounts Relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India.*

Wholesale prices of selected oilseeds and vegetable oils as designated markets on August 6, 1955, were as follows in U. S. cents per pound:

Rapeseed, red, Bombay	5.1
Mustard seed, Calcutta	6.1
Flaxseed, bold, Bombay	4.7
Peanut kernels, bold, Bombay	4.4
Castor beans, small, Bombay	3.2
Sesame seed, Kanpur	5.4
Cottonseed, varad, Bombay	2.0
Mustard oil, Hapur, U. P.	12.3
Linseed oil, Bombay	10.9
Peanut oil, Bombay	9.5
Castor oil, Kanpur	6.6
Sesame oil, Madras	10.9

U. S. AGREES TO DROP LIMITATIONS ON TUNG OIL IMPORTS

The President of the United States announced on October 27, 1955, that he would not request the United States Tariff Commission to investigate the advisability of imposing an import quota on tung oil during the marketing year beginning November 1, 1955.

The President's decision was based on advice from the Department of Agriculture indicating that the Commodity Credit Corporation's tung oil position is improved, its holdings having been reduced by about 17 million pounds, and that present domestic production, damaged by severe March freezes this year, is such that the United States will need to import almost half of its tung oil requirements in the coming marketing year.

In view of these circumstances, the Governments of Argentina and Paraguay, this country's major foreign suppliers of tung oil, will discontinue their existing limitations on exports of tung oil to the United States. These limitations were voluntarily undertaken by Argentina and Paraguay during the current marketing year ending October 31 in an effort to assist this country in dealing with its domestic tung oil marketing and supply problem.

The Department of Agriculture has assured the President that it will maintain a continuing review of the situation and will make further recommendations should they be warranted by changed conditions.

NIGERIA'S 1954-55 PEANUT CROP DOWN; SESAME, SOYBEANS UP

Total peanut purchases by the Nigerian Marketing Board are reported at 419,120 short tons for the 1954-55 season, a decline of 12 percent from the 475,600 tons for the 1953-54 season. Exports by the Central Marketing Board up to an including August 31 totaled 195,840 short tons. Unshipped stocks at Kano at mid-August last year amounted to about 206,000 short tons, whereas there were only about 106,000 at the same time this year. In order to improve the quality of peanuts offered for export the Board has announced a policy of paying an extra $3.75 per ton for special grade peanuts.

Sesame seed purchases by the Marketing Board are reported as 18,190 short tons for the 1954-55 season as compared to 1953-54 purchases of 15,330 tons. Exports by the Board up to August 31 were 6,970 tons at an average price of $175 per ton. Purchases of the 1955-56 crop reported up to September 15 totaled 18,490 tons as compared to 16,330 tons on the corresponding date of the 1954-55 season.

Soybean purchases of the 1954-55 crop by the Marketing Board were approximately 353,000 bushels as compared to 1953-54 purchases of 327,300 bushels. Exports up to August 31 were 339,700 bushels, for which the Board received an average price of $2.85 per bushel.

NIGERIA'S PALM OIL AND PALM KERNEL PRODUCTION DOWN

Nigeria's production of palm oil and palm kernels in the first 8 months of 1955 was down roughly 10 percent from production in the corresponding period of 1954. Palm oil purchases to September 8, 1955, totaled 178,230 short tons compared with 201,145 tons in the same period last year. Kernel purchase amounted to 352,950 tons against 387,076 tons a year ago. Shipments made by the Central Marketing Board through August 31, 1955, were reported at 167,556 tons of oil and 350,785 tons of kernels.

Fixed Marketing Board purchase prices paid to producers for the marketing year 1955 range from £20 per long ton ($50.00 per short ton) for Techincal Grade 3 (18 to 30 percent fatty acid) to £58 ($145) for Special Grade A (up to 3½ percent fatty acid). (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 24, 1955.) The average export price for Special Grades A and B (edible) is £74 per long ton ($185 per short ton) and for Technical Grades (inedible) £64 ($160). The Marketing Board price for palm kernels for the marketing year 1955 is £30 ($75). The average export price is £44 ($110).

The problem of adulterated palm oil in Nigeria has been met largely by improved tests that have been devised to detect the presence of any adulterant in the oil. All oil purchased by the marketing boards now is checked and any oil that shows the presence of an adulterant is refused. The sharp rise in the practice of adulterating the oil in 1954 and the obvious threat to Nigerian palm oil production, and particularly to the economy of the Eastern Region, brought about much more rigid inspection.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (Cont'd. from p. 518.)

Mediterranean Citrus Crop Outlook for the 1955-56 Crop Season. Foreign Ag. Circ. FCF-5-55

Dried Prune Situation in France. Foreign Ag. Circ. FDF-11-55

Italian Walnut Situation. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-13-55

Mediterranean Almond Crop Smallest Since 1944. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-12-55

The First International Coconut Conference. Foreign Ag. Circ. FFO-17-55

World Barley and Oats Production Large. Foreign Ag. Circ. FG-22-55

Olive Industry in Lower California, Mexico. Foreign Ag. Rpt. 85

World Cotton Production Exceeds Previous Record. Foreign Ag. Circ. FC-9-55

The First International Coconut Conference. Foreign Ag. Circ. FFO-17-55

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION AT NEW RECORD HIGH

World cotton production in 1955-56, tentatively estimated at 39.8 million bales (of 500 pounds gross weight), is a new record high. The present prospect is 1.4 million bales or 4 percent higher than the revised estimate of 38.4 million produced in 1954-55. Increased acreage in nearly all countries outside the United States is the principal cause for higher world production, but a definite uptrend in yields per acre exists in nearly all countries including the United States. Higher yields may be attributed to expansion of irrigation systems, greater mechanization, heavier applications of fertilizer, and improvements in insect controls and cultural practices.

Production in the United States is up by 232,000 bales (October estimate) despite a reduction of 2.7 million acres in harvested area under the official acreage-control program. Average yield, estimated at 405 pounds of lint per harvested acre for 1955-56, is 19 percent higher than the previous record of 341 pounds reported last year. United States production this year represented 35 percent of the world total compared with 41 percent for the 5-year prewar average.

In the non-Communist foreign countries, cotton production continued a sharp upward trend to a new record level of 16.7 million bales in 1955-56. This is 1.0 million bales higher than that of a year ago and 2.9 million or 21 percent higher than in 1953-54. An acreage increase of only 8 percent, from 39.4 million acres in 1953-54 to 42.6 million in 1955-56, indicates the significant improvement in average yields. Further increases in production are planned in most foreign countries but major emphasis appears to be given to achieving higher yields rather than acreage increases, except where new irrigation systems are being developed.

In addition to improved facilities and methods (mentioned above) for growing cotton in foreign countries, another factor encouraging cotton expansion in recent years has been the ratio of cotton prices to those for food crops. The principal cotton growing countries generally are net importers of food grains. The soil and climate in most of them are not suitable for low-cost production of grain. Large supplies of food grains brought about declining world prices while cotton prices during the 3 years prior to 1955 were stabilized at or above the United States support level. Foreign governments have been encouraged to place more emphasis on increasing cotton production for export while permitting larger imports of grain for domestic needs.

The greatest increases (percentagewise) in foreign cotton production in recent years have been in Mexico, where large new areas of former desert land have been brought under irrigation, and in Central America, where increased acreage was achieved by plowing up pastureland and clearing of former jungle areas. Yield per acre in both cases has been nearly doubled in the past 10 years.

(See table, next two pages. Text cont'd., p. 536.)

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-55 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production 2/				
	Average		1953	1954 3/	1955 3/	Average		1953	1954 3/	1955 3/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
NORTH AMERICA										
El Salvador	9	35	54	73	110	5	21	57	90	130
Guatemala	-	8	27	40	60	2	5	27	40	60
Mexico	725	1,034	1,860	1,820	2,685	334	577	1,210	1,780	2,050
Nicaragua	9	11	100	190	250	5	7	109	205	250
United States	27,788	21,258	24,341	19,251	16,514	13,149	12,104	16,465	13,696	13,928
British West Indies	20	12	13	-	-	5	4	3	-	-
Haiti	-	37	40	50	-	22	10	7	8	-
Total 4/	28,642	22,403	26,442	21,444	19,690	13,523	12,730	17,881	15,825	16,434
EUROPE										
Bulgaria 5/	85	82	-	-	-	35	20	-	-	-
Greece	168	111	220	270	415	76	52	139	190	275
Italy	56	40	124	125	-	21	11	35	37	39
Rumania 5/	8	102	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Spain	46	130	217	267	435	10	18	82	95	120
Yugoslavia	8	-	18	29	35	3	-	5	7	8
Total 4/	372	511	964	1,086	1,410	147	127	366	444	557
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5,087	3,697	-	-	-	3,430	2,328	-	-	-
ASIA										
Aden	-	-	22	41	-	-	-	18	18	-
Cyprus	11	5	13	13	-	3	1	3	3	-
Iran	453	239	555	620	800	171	85	240	275	275
Iraq	53	22	51	100	100	11	5	17	31	27
Syria	85	59	370	463	500	28	32	220	365	365
Turkey	667	645	1,495	1,440	1,480	249	268	638	650	675
Afghanistan	-	-	100	150	-	49	16	60	90	-
Burma	428	178	400	400	-	97	32	95	85	-
China (incl. Manchuria)	7,038	5,831	10,200	9,600	-	2,855	1,939	3,200	3,100	-
French Indochina	36	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-
India	6/ 24,204	11,306	17,027	18,350	19,000	6/ 5,348	2,304	3,730	4,250	4,200
Korea 7/	564	344	250	250	-	198	89	75	75	-
Indonesia	27	-	-	-	-	9	4	2	6	-
Pakistan	6/	2,965	2,930	3,185	3,100	6/	1,024	1,215	1,300	1,400
Thailand	16	84	100	100	-	7	26	39	39	-
Total 4/	33,805	21,827	33,557	34,771	36,201	9,038	5,835	9,560	10,297	10,566

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina	770	962	1,350	1,350	-	289	427	635	530	-
Brazil	5,562	4,520	4,000	4,500	-	1,956	1,352	1,465	1,630	-
Colombia	98	-	200	230	-	23	27	92	122	130
Ecuador	40	41	36	36	-	13	11	12	12	15
Paraguay	111	123	150	173	-	40	47	62	57	-
Peru	428	345	531	540	540	379	308	475	510	495
Venezuela	50	-	30	40	-	11	11	13	14	9
Total 4/	7,060	6,177	6,302	6,875	7,376	2,711	2,184	2,756	2,877	3,056
AFRICA AND OCEANIA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	439	371	652	685	-	248	246	400	407	-
Belgian Congo	874	745	900	850	-	172	195	240	225	-
Kenya	-	51	87	95	-	13	6	14	13	-
Nyasaland	84	-	85	-	-	12	8	9	9	-
Tanganyika	-	-	190	250	-	50	38	42	82	75
Uganda	1,477	1,324	1,611	1,728	-	281	227	331	250	-
Canary Islands	-	2	5	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Egypt	1,821	1,367	1,375	1,639	1,885	1,893	1,456	1,461	1,598	1,806
French Equatorial Africa	390	-	625	700	-	41	104	130	150	-
French North Africa	1	5	28	30	-	8/	2	15	15	-
French West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	28	14	28	30	-
Mozambique	-	557	700	710	-	9/ 33	104	145	140	150
Nigeria	-	-	400	-	-	36	48	135	170	180
Angola	73	-	120	120	-	13	24	29	30	25
Southern Rhodesia	2	5	10	-	-	8/	2	3	2	-
Union of South Africa	-	12	60	90	-	2	3	20	26	-
Australia	53	5	9	13	-	11	1	4	4	-
Total 4/	6,176	5,710	7,095	7,654	7,953	2,840	2,483	3,017	3,167	3,437
World total 4/	81,142	60,325	80,360	78,330	79,130	31,689	25,687	39,080	38,410	39,850

1/ Years refer to crop years, beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Pakistan included with India. 7/ South Korea only, after 1941. 8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad and results of office research.

In the countries of the Near East, especially Turkey, Syria, and Iran, important cotton-production increases are attributed mainly to new irrigation systems, increased acreage (formerly pasture and desert), better insect control, and mechanization. Production in Egypt and India has nearly doubled in the past 10 years but the 1955 crops vary only slightly from the prewar averages. Many of the minor cotton growing countries of the world have more than doubled their cotton production in the past 5 years. Nigeria is undertaking a resettlement and land-clearing program in sparsely inhabited areas that is intended to raise cotton production from the current level of 180,000 bales to about 700,000 in a few years.

Information available from the Communist countries is incomplete, but it is evident that cotton production in those countries, mostly China and the Soviet Union, also has been rising in recent years. Production in this group of countries is estimated at 9.2 million bales in 1955-56 compared with 9.0 million a year ago. China has almost reached self-sufficiency in cotton production and the Soviet Union is exporting between 1.25 and 1.5 million bales a year, mostly to Communist countries in Eastern Europe.

Production goals and long-range private estimates available from foreign sources indicate that foreign cotton production is expected to continue the upward trend but at a slower rate. However, the sharp decline in prices of foreign-grown cotton since the early months of 1955 and rising prices of locally grown food commodities other than grain may result in a leveling-off of cotton acreage except where new areas are being opened to irrigation.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and other FAS representatives abroad.

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REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

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UNITED STATES: Exports and imports of egg and poultry products
August 1954 and 1955

	1954	1955	1954	1955
	Quantity (1,000)		Value ($1,000)	
Exports:				
Eggs and egg products				
Shell eggs, doz.	5,248	4,265	1,955	1,465
Egg solids, lbs.	52	78	49	83
Eggs, frozen or otherwise preserved, lbs.	22	38	10	15
Poultry and game, chilled or frozen				
Chickens and capons, lbs.	974	554	357	186
Other poultry and game, lbs.	637	375	292	152
Poultry, canned, lbs.	230	308	73	129
Poultry, live (excluding baby chicks), lbs.	247	135	75	39
Baby chicks	1,201	1,161	188	170
Total value			2,999	2,239
Imports:				
Eggs and egg products				
Shell eggs, (including duck eggs), doz.	86	152	46	79
Egg solids, lbs.				
Poultry and game (excluding live), lbs.	8	12	22	25
Poultry, live (excluding baby chicks), lbs.	136	11	39	4
Baby chicks		7		2
Total value			107	110

RECENT PUBLICATIONS of the Foreign Agricultural Service:

Observations on the Swiss Citrus Market: October 1955. Foreign Ag. Circ. FCF-6-55

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest: October 1955

(See additional listings pp. 518 and 532.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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